



# Memorandum

*Chuck Reed*

**TO:** MGPTF Policy Team

**FROM:** Mayor Chuck Reed

**SUBJECT:** SAFE SUMMER INITIATIVE UPDATE

**DATE:** June 27, 2008

## RECOMMENDATION

Accept the update on the pilot the Safe Summer Initiative.

## BACKGROUND

The Safe Summer Initiative is keeping San José youth active, busy, and off the streets this summer with block parties, sports events, field trips, and scholarships for summer camp. With \$342,804 allocated to city programs and community based organizations, the Safe Summer Initiative provides a critical tool in the City of San José's efforts to combat gang involvement among youth. I want to thank our community partners for responding to this challenge and for their continued efforts to keep our youth out of trouble and away from gangs not only during the summer season, but year-round.

Launched on June 27, the Safe Summer Initiative includes \$242,804 in one-time City funding that was allocated in the Mayor's June Budget Message, and \$100,000 awarded by District Attorney Dolores Carr.

With the limited time frame of summer vacation, the Safe Summer Initiative has gotten underway quickly, with grants going from application to award in two weeks.

Community-based organizations received \$304,250 in mini-grants for camps, community events, mentoring programs, and other activities for San José youth. The initiative provided \$30,719 to city programs to enhance swim center activities, fund middle school soccer leagues, and provide scholarships for 50 youth from low-income families to attend city summer camps. City staff did an exceptional job of quickly implementing the Initiative and keeping the cost to administer the Safe Summer Initiative to \$7,835- 2% of the entire grant allotment.

The City of San José's Safe School Campus Initiative staff, together with the City's Strong Neighborhoods Initiative and community-based partners, will hold ten Community Block Parties throughout the City. In addition, they partnered with numerous Neighborhood Associations through-out the cities to expand. These events have been extremely successful and brought out large numbers of youth in the community. They have three remaining events:

Date and Time	Event	Location	Contact
Saturday, August 23 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Capitol Park Community Day	Capitol Park Bambi Lane/Peter Pan Avenue	Joe Nguyen
Tuesday, August 26 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Community Summer Block Party	Chris Hotts Park Almaden Blvd/Coleman Avenue	Danny Perez
Thursday August 28 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM	Community Summer Block Party	Donna Lane	Danny Perez

The Safe Summer Initiative has met with an overwhelming response from community organizations, with total requests for funding totaling \$1,265,250. Below is a list of our grant recipients and a brief description of their summer activities:

#### Grant Recipients

Alum Rock Counseling Center, Inc.	Organization providing at-risk youth with positive, alternative activities while increasing their social skills to reduce their risk of engaging in negative behavior. Grant funding will go towards extended activities, life skill classes, team building activities, and educational field trips.
Asian American Recovery Services, Inc.	Grant funding to go towards Safe Summer Activities Program aimed at providing at-risk youth with a safe and supportive environment. Program activities include anger management, character building, communication skills, decision making, and goal setting.
Bill Wilson Center	Organization provides counseling, housing, education, and intervention services to youth. Grant funding to go towards Youth Revolution summer program that will take place at San Jose City College to expose gang-involved and gang-impacted youth to higher education. Youth will participate in workshops on leadership skills, anger management, and communication styles.
California Youth Outreach	grant funding to go towards operating a summer program for gang-impacted and involved youth, providing sports tournaments and youth outings.
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County	Grant funding to go towards Youth Empowered for Success programs aimed to empower and develop youth through intervention, cultural enrichment, social and leadership development, and field trips.
Center for Training & Careers, Inc.	Funding to go towards Youth on Fire Enrichment Program which will introduce youth to paintings, drawings, mixed media, fashion, stencils, and group collaborations.
Community Partners	A community based non-profit organization that provides direct

for Youth	mentoring to at-risk middle and high school teens. Grant funding will go towards establishing drop-in centers at Yerba Buena and Overfelt High Schools.
CRYY Out Christian Ministries	Grant funding to go towards the Summer Leadership Institute for Youth, combining recreation, leadership training, and life skills. Program activities will include outings to local college campuses, theme parks, and sporting events.
East Side Union High School District	Grant funding to go towards Summer Opportunity Program, providing at-risk youth with a positive alternative to gang involvement through a fun, safe, and educational afternoon summer program. Curriculum will teach youth how to solve problems peacefully, increase their sense of self-worth, recognize their impact on others, accept responsibility for their actions, and set personal goals.
Filipino Youth Coalition	Grant funding to go towards Midsummer Night's Hope, encouraging solidarity between community ethnic groups, especially youth groups impacted by gangs.
First Assembly of God	Grant funding to go towards Unashamed, a themed summer program to provide a series of activities that will educate and inspire teens to be a part of a positive group in their community. Participants will be educating on various challenges that they face such as pressures to join gangs and do drugs.
Fresh Lifelines for Youth	Grant funding to go towards a crime prevention program that uses the law to build life skills. Participants will also be invited to a day at the beach or to Sky High Sports that provides an indoor trampoline.
Friends Outside in Santa Clara County	Grant funding to go towards Summer Challenge, providing youth with safe and fun recreational opportunities. Activities include team and self-esteem building activities that will give youth the tools and confidence to stay away from gang activity.
Girl Scouts of Northern California	Grant funding to go towards weekend retreats for high-need gang-impacted, gang-involved, and delinquent girls. Participants will also take part in a Leadership Event to increase their self-awareness and improve their social skills.
Maranatha Outreach Center	Grant funding to go towards Summer Creativity Enhancement Program to provide recreational and artistic activities. Participants will be provided with activities that include creative food creation, arts and crafts, expressive writing, basketball, and table games.
McLaughlin Corridor Neighborhood Association	Grant funding to go towards National Night Out where youth will participate in educational and recreational activities with local Police Officers. Participants will be provided with positive alternatives and build stronger relationships with the community.
Mexican American Community Services Agency	Grant funding to go towards enhancing services for gang-involved youth by securing funding for an interactive youth leadership development retreat. Four field trips will also be organized for high school students that will engage them in skill building.

Most Holy Trinity Church	Grant funding to go towards Summer Evening Youth Computer Program that will provide youth with an inviting and safe environment to learn software programs. Workshops will motivate and inspire its participants with life skills to decrease self-destructive behaviors.
Rohi Alternative Community Outreach	Grant funding to go towards leadership training, outings, and community involvement activities for gang-involved and gang-impacted youth. Program will use creative resources such as food to keep youth leaders involved and reward them for their hard work.
Silicon Valley De-Bug	Funding to go towards Summer Media Academy which will lead youth in classes involving photography, video production, radio and music production, print journalism, and silk-screening.
Victory Outreach Special Services	Grant funding to go towards Save Our Street project, an outreach program designed to have at-risk youth participate in community peace and unity building events. Each event is designed to teach youth the affects of gangs and violence while providing solutions to socio-cultural problems they may encounter.
Viet-American Foundation	Grant funding to go towards a series of workshops designed to engage youth in positive activities. Program will also include various tournaments with sports, public speaking, trivia, and talent competitions.
W.C. Overfelt High School	Grant funding to go towards Summer Bridge Program for incoming high school freshmen. Participants of the program will gain an understanding to what it takes to succeed in high school and helps them to set personal goals for future success.
West Evergreen Neighborhood Association	Grant funding to go towards National Night Out in an effort to reduce crime by getting neighbors to interact with each other. Youth Day will create positive interactions between youth and law enforcement agencies and present information on fire safety and crime prevention.
Yerba Buena High School	Grant funding to go towards summer programs dedicated to reduce gang involvement of incoming high school freshmen. Activities include team building, positive decision making discussions, group counseling, field trips, cultural awareness education, and individual family case management services.

For a complete list of Safe Summer Initiative activities, please visit the Mayor's Website at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/mayor/safe.asp>.

**For more information, please contact Melanie Jimenez at 408.535.4828 or at [melanie.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:melanie.jimenez@sanjoseca.gov).**